



AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/536,767

Q88071

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A sample drying device comprising:

a channel for a sample flowing in said channel; and

a sample drying area, disposed at an end of said channel and having an opening communicating with said channel,

wherein said sample drying area comprises a fine channel narrower than said channel, and wherein said fine channel has a width such that liquid is drawn therethrough by capillary action.

2. (currently amended): A sample drying device comprising:

a main channel for a sample flowing in said main channel;

a plurality of side channels branched from said main channel; and

a sample drying area, disposed at an end of said side channels and communicating with said side channels,

wherein said sample drying area has a fine channel narrower than said side channels, and wherein said fine channel has a width such that liquid is drawn therethrough by capillary action.

3. (original): The sample drying device as claimed in Claim 2,

wherein said sample contains multiple components and said main channel comprises a separating portion to separate said components.

4. (original): The sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3,
wherein said sample drying area comprises a plurality of protrusions separated each other.

5. (original): The sample drying device as claimed in Claim 4,
wherein said drying area has a shape so that the top of said sample drying area projects from said opening.

6. (previously presented): The sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3,
wherein said sample drying area is filled with multiple particles.

7. (previously presented): The sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3,
wherein said sample drying area is filled with a porous material.

8. (previously presented): The sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3,
wherein said sample drying area has a lid comprising a fine channel communicating with said outside of said sample drying device.

9. (previously presented): The sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said sample drying device comprises a temperature controller for controlling a temperature of said sample drying area.

10. (previously presented): A mass spectrometer comprising a sample drying area included in said sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3, as a sample holder.

11. (previously presented): A mass spectrometry system comprising:
separating unit separating components in a biological sample by their molecular sizes and properties;
pretreatment unit pretreating said sample separated by said separating unit including enzymatic digestion;
drying unit drying the pretreated sample components; and
mass spectrometry unit conducting mass spectrometry for the dried sample,
where in said drying unit comprises said sample drying device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3.